

OCTOLASION ÖRLEY, 1885 (ANNELIDA, OLIGOCHAETA, LUMBRICIDAE): RATIFICATION OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE TYPE SPECIES AND THE INTRODUCTION OF *OCTOLASION* (*OCTODRILUS*) BY OMODEO, 1956 IN ACCORDANCE WITH USAGE, WITH THE SUPPRESSION OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE TYPE SPECIES AND OF THE NAMES *OCTOLASION* (*INCOLORE*) AND *OCTOLASION* (*PURPUREUM*) BY OMODEO, 1952. Z.N.(S.) 2469

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The genus *Octolasion* was proposed by Örley (1885, p. 13) to accommodate several Hungarian species of earthworms of the family LUMBRICIDAE. Over the years actions by authors have led to nomenclatural confusion that in part requires the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to exercise its plenary powers to deal with the problems now extant. However, before detailing the application, it is useful to review the results of attempts retrospectively to latinise the spelling of the name.

2. *Octolasion* was unjustifiably emended to *Octolasia* by Rosa (1896, p. 3) then, possibly to provide a termination consistent with its original (neuter) gender, the spelling was further changed to *Octolasium* by Michaelsen (1900, p. 504). As the latter emendation was proposed in Michaelsen's authoritative monograph, it passed into general usage. However, in 1964 Gerard reverted to the original orthography and since that date there has been discord with some authors complying with the provisions of Article 32 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature and others, as is evident in the application below, either unaware of an infringement of the Code or unwilling to dispute Michaelsen's authority.

3. The problems other than matters of orthography, that threaten the stability of the nomenclature of the genus and of its species have arisen mainly from two disparate designations of a type species and descriptions of subgenera. In a review of the genus *Octolasium* (sic), Omodeo (1952, p. 46):

- (1) designated *Lumbricus complanatus* Dugès, 1828 as the type species,
- (2) described the subgenera (*Incolore*), type species *Lumbricus terrestris* var. *lacteus* Örley, 1881, and (*Purpureum*), type species *Allolobophora lissaensis* Michaelsen, 1891.

But in a review of the family LUMBRICIDAE, Omodeo (1956, p. 206):

- (1) designated *Lumbricus terrestris* var. *lacteus* Örley, 1881 as the type species of *Octolasium* (sic),

(2) described the subgenus (*Octodrilus*), type species *Lumbricus complanatus* Dugès, 1828.

4. The subsequent review, although invalid, provided the ingredients for total confusion. Fortunately for the stability of nomenclature, Omodeo's earlier actions of 1952 have been overlooked (except for a notification of the preparation of this application: Sims, 1983). There has, however, been a unanimity of approval and adoption of the later proposals, for example, Gerard, 1964; Bouché, 1972; Gates, 1973; Perel, 1979; Zicsi, 1981; and Easton, 1983; while the 1956 subgenus (*Octodrilus*) has been elevated to generic rank and widely accepted as a valid taxon. Clearly the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should use its plenary powers to regularise the situation, the more so since these species are commonly recorded by ecologists and others unfamiliar with nomenclature. Otherwise if the Code were now rigorously applied then the species currently placed in the genus *Octolasion* would be transferred to the overlooked *Incolore* while current members of the genus *Octodrilus* would be assigned to a new concept *Octolasion* containing *Octodrilus* as an objective synonym and *Purpureum* as a subjective synonym.

5. In addition to the potential confusion detailed above, the difficulties could be compounded by the introduction of yet another generic name that has been associated briefly with *Octolasion*. The name is *Alyattes* proposed by Kinberg, 1867, type, by tautonymy, *Lumbricus alyattes* Kinberg, 1867, now regarded (Michaelsen, 1900, p. 506) as a subjective synonym of *Octolasion cyaneum* (Savigny, 1826). However, the name *Alyattes* Kinberg, 1867 is a junior homonym of both *Alyattes* Thomson, 1864 (Coleoptera) and *Alyattes* Stål, 1865 (Hemiptera), so it must be rejected in favour of the available name of its junior subjective synonym *Octolasion* Örley, 1885.

6. The following references show the relative usages of the generic names involved.

References using the name *OCTOLASION* Örley, 1885 employing the correct spelling:

- Easton, E. G. 1983. A guide to the valid names of Lumbricidae. In Satchell, J. E. (ed.) *Earthworm ecology*, pp. 475–487. London, Chapman & Hall.
- Edwards, C. A. & Lofty, J. R. 1972. *Biology of earthworms*, pp. 1–283. London, Chapman & Hall.
- Gates, G. E. 1973. The earthworm genus *Octolasion* in America. *Bull. Tall Timbers res. Stn* vol. 14(8) pp. 29–50.
- Gates, G. E. 1982. Farewell to North American Megadriles. *Megadrilologica*, vol. 4(1–2), pp. 12–77.
- Gerard, B. M. 1964. Lumbricidae (Annelida). *Synopses Brit. Fauna* vol. 6, pp. 1–58. London, The Linnean Society of London.
- Jamieson, B. G. M. 1981. *The ultrastructure of the Oligochaeta*, pp. 1–462. London, Academic Press.
- Lofs-Holmin, A. 1983. Earthworm population dynamics in different agricultural

rotations. In Satchell, J. E. (ed.) *Earthworm ecology*, pp. 151–160. London, Chapman & Hall.

- Reynolds, J. W. 1972. Earthworms (Lumbricidae) of the Haliburton Highlands, Ontario, Canada. *Megadrilologica*, vol. 1(3), pp. 1–11.
- Reynolds, J. W. 1977. *The earthworms (Lumbricidae and Sparganophilidae) of Ontario*, pp. 1–141. Toronto, Royal Ontario Museum.
- Sims, R. W. 1983. The scientific names of earthworms. In Satchell, J. E. (ed.) *Earthworm ecology*, pp. 467–474. London, Chapman & Hall.
- Sims, R. W. & Gerard, B. M. 1985. Earthworms. *Synopses Brit. Fauna* (N.S.) (in press). Leiden, Brill.

References using the name *OCTODRILUS* Omodeo, 1956:

- Bouché, M. B. 1972. Lombriciens de France: Écologie et Systématique. *Annls Zool. Écol. anim.* (Numéro spécial) vol. 72(2), pp. 1–671.
- Easton, E. G. 1983. A guide to the valid names of Lumbricidae. In Satchell, J. E. (ed.) *Earthworm ecology*, pp. 475–487. London, Chapman & Hall.
- Michalis, K. 1975. Die Oligochaeten der Insel Kos. *Sci. Annals Fac. Phys. u. Mathem., Univ. Thessaloniki*, vol. 15, pp. 187–200.
- Plisko, J. D. & Zicsi, A. 1970. *Octolasion (Octodrilus) rucneri* n.sp. -ein neuer Regenwurm aus Jugoslawien. *Acta zool. Hung.* vol. 16, pp. 453–456.
- Reynolds, J. W. & Cook, D. G. 1976. *Nomenclatura Oligochaetologica*, pp. 1–217. Fredericton, University of New Brunswick.
- Sapkarev, J. A. 1972. Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Lumbricidenfauna Griechenlands. *Maced. Acad. Sci. Arts*, vol. 4, pp. 31–36.
- Sapkarev, J. A. 1977. The fauna of earthworms of Macedonia, 7. The earthworms (Olig. Lumbricidae) of Ohrid-Struga valley. *Ann. Fac. Biol. Univ. Kiril et Metodij Skopje*, vol. 30, pp. 27–45.
- Zicsi, A. 1982. Verzeichnis der bis 1971 beschriebenen und revidierten Taxa der Familie Lumbricidae (Oligochaeta). *Acta zool. Hung.* vol. 28 (3–4), pp. 421–454.
- Zicsi, A. 1983. Earthworm ecology in deciduous forests in central and southeast Europe. In Satchell, J. E. (ed.) *Earthworm ecology*, pp. 171–177. London, Chapman & Hall.
- Zicsi, A. & Michalis, K. 1981. Übersicht der Regenwurm-Fauna Griechenlands (Oligochaeta: Lumbricidae). *Acta zool. Hung.* vol. 27, pp. 239–264.

References using the names *OCTOLASIUM* (sic) (*INCOLORE*) Omodeo, 1952 and *OCTOLASIUM* (sic) (*PURPUREUM*) Omodeo, 1952:

No records.

Note. Omodeo's actions of 1952 are ignored, see: Reynolds, J. W. & Cook, D. G. 1976. *Nomenclatura Oligochaetologica*, 1–217. Fredericton, New Brunswick.

In this work the 1952 type designation of *Octolasion* and the names *Incolore* and *Purpureum* are omitted, yet the 1956 type designation of *Octolasion* and the name *Octodrilus* are accepted as valid.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use the plenary powers:
 - (a) to suppress the genus-group names *Incolore* Omodeo, 1952 and *Purpureum* Omodeo, 1952 for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
 - (b) to set aside all designations of type species hitherto made for the nominal genus *Octolasion* Örley, 1885, and to designate *Lumbricus terrestris* var. *lacteus* Örley, 1881 as type species thereof;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Octolasion* Örley, 1885 (gender: neuter), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1) (b) above, *Lumbricus terrestris* var. *lacteus* Örley, 1881;
 - (b) *Octodrilus* Omodeo, 1956 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation, *Lumbricus complanatus* Dugès, 1828;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *lacteus* Örley, 1885, as published in the trinomen *Lumbricus terrestris* var. *lacteus* (specific name of the type species of *Octolasion* Örley, 1885);
 - (b) *complanatus* Dugès, 1828, as published in the binomen *Lumbricus complanatus* (specific name of the type species of *Octodrilus* Omodeo, 1956);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the generic names:
 - (a) *Incolore* Omodeo, 1952 and *Purpureum* Omodeo, 1952, as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *Alyattes* Kinberg, 1867, a junior homonym of *Alyattes* Thomson, 1864;
 - (c) *Octolasia* Rosa, 1893 and *Octolasium* Michaelsen, 1900 as unjustified emendations of *Octolasion* Örley, 1885.

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